



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE NOREEN S. KOKORUDA**  
ONE HUNDRED FIRST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

TOLL FREE: (800) 842-1423  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8700  
HOME: (203) 245-9054

[Noreen.Kokoruda@housegop.ct.gov](mailto:Noreen.Kokoruda@housegop.ct.gov)

**HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR**

**RANKING MEMBER**  
COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

**MEMBER**  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
AGING COMMITTEE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Testimony in Support of HB 5372 An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered In Teacher Preparation Programs  
March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Co-Chairs Haddad, Bye, and Linares; Vice Chairs Ziogas, Flexer, and Somers; Ranking Member Staneski; and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of HB 5372, An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered In Teacher Preparation Programs

I fully support this concept. This bill will require teachers to be educated in the signs and symptoms of dyslexia as well as be trained in specific, research-based, interventions are critical. The best place to start with this is when they are in college. This will assure that when a teacher is hired they will be properly prepared before they walk into the classroom. We all know that failing to recognize the early symptoms of dyslexia and failing to properly assist them can be detrimental to the social and educational aspects of the child's life.

In 2015, Connecticut passed S.B. 1054 which defined dyslexia, and required educators to have dyslexia training during teacher preparation courses. Additionally, in 2016 SB 107 added the requirement of dyslexia training to reading specialists. This bill not only expands the requirement to include structured literacy which will allow teachers to be educated in evidence-based literacy so that they can properly prepare a lesson plan for a child with dyslexia but also establishes a Dyslexia Council. This council will provide the Office of Higher Education, the Board of Regents for Higher Education, and the Department of Education with recommendations for dyslexia related matters and instruction. This bill not only helps the teacher to be properly trained but identifies the symptoms of dyslexia early so that the instruction required is not necessarily needed throughout the child's schooling life. This in turn will save the school district money in the long run. I fully support HB 5372.

Thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony before your committee. I urge the committee's favorable report of HB 5372.

Noreen Kokoruda- 101<sup>st</sup> District

